

**REMARKS**

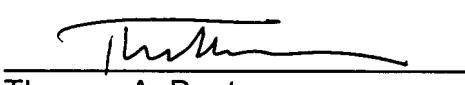
This application has been reviewed in light of the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (37 CFR 1.121) mailed on May 10, 2007. In response thereto, Applicants have presented an Abstract that begins on a separate sheet after the Claims section. Reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all claims presently pending in the application, namely Claims 1-17, are believed to be in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner should have any questions concerning this communication or feels that an interview would be helpful, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the Examiner's convenience.

Please charge any deficiency as well as any other fee(s) that may become due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and/or 1.17 at any time during the pendency of this application, or credit any overpayment of such fee(s), to Deposit Account No. 21-0550.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Attorney for Applicants

Date: 5/23/07

**UNITED STATES SURGICAL**

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